

**Amendments to the Claims**

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide consisting ~~essentially~~ of about amino acid 25 to about amino acid 250 of a full length human erythropoietin receptor protein (SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:7), said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 29 kDa.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) A binding assay composition comprising:

(a) a solid phase reagent; and

(b) the polypeptide of claim 3 operably coupled to said reagent.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn and Currently amended) A method for obtaining an antibody having specific binding affinity for human erythropoietin receptor polypeptide, said method comprising:

contacting a non-human mammal with a purified preparation of an extracellular domain fragment of human erythropoietin receptor polypeptide consisting ~~essentially~~ of about amino acid 25 to about amino acid 250 of a full length human erythropoietin receptor protein (SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:7), said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 29 kDa ~~human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, wherein the fragment contains only native human erythropoietin receptor and has a molecular weight of 29 kDa, and~~ collecting said antibody from said non-human animal.

11. (Currently amended) The polypeptide of claim 3 wherein the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein is encoded by a full length human erythropoietin receptor

DNA (SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6) and the polypeptide consisting ~~essentially~~ of about amino acid 25 to about amino acid 250 of the full length human erythropoietin receptor protein corresponds to the region of the full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA defined on the 5' end by a forward primer SEQ ID NO:1 and defined at the 3' end by reverse primer SEQ ID NO:2.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) An isolated polypeptide consisting of a human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain, said polypeptide having a specific affinity for human erythropoietin, wherein the human erythropoietin receptor extracellular domain is expressed from a region of a full length human erythropoietin receptor DNA (SEQ ID NO:4 or SEQ ID NO:6) defined on the 5' end by a forward primer SEQ ID NO:1 and defined at the 3' end by a reverse primer SEQ ID NO:2.

14-16. (Canceled).